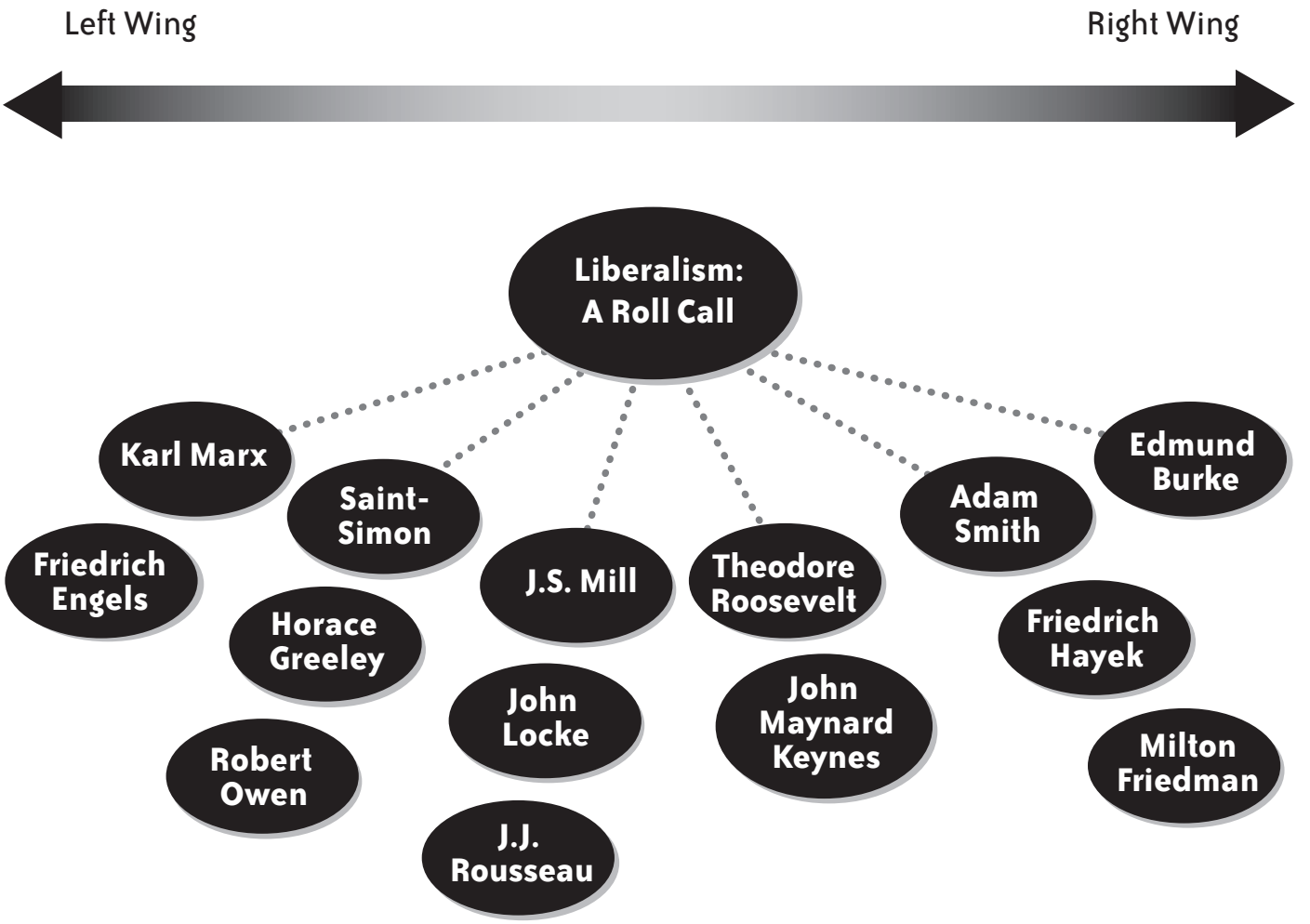
Left Wing
Right Wing
Liberalism: A Roll Call
Karl Marx
Saint-Simon
Edmund Burke
Friedrich Engels
J.S. Mill
Theodore Roosevelt
Adam Smith
Horace Greeley
Friedrich Hayek
John Locke
John Maynard Keynes
Robert Owen
Milton Friedman
J.J. Rousseau

Two qualities are generally accepted as indicators of whether an ideology (or system of beliefs and values) is considered **left wing** or **right wing**:

1. To what extent does the ideology favour change or tradition?

Radical versus reactionary at the extremes: This quality often refers to democratic versus anti-democratic beliefs and values held by the ideology.

2. To what extent does the ideology favour individual sovereignty or group security?

Libertarianism or anarchy versus totalitarianism at the extremes: This quality often refers to the degree of government activism advocated by the ideology; that is, very little government involvement versus a great deal of government involvement.

Caution should be exercised when using the terms **left wing** and **right wing**. In spite of the qualities presented above, the terms are subject to wide interpretations and often mean something different when speaking about political behaviour than when speaking about economic behaviour.